

Message Text

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41

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 /018 W

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R 071030Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3704

UNCLAS COLOMBO 3555

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: BEXP, ECON, XD

SUBJ: SOUTH ASIA COMMERCIAL OFFICERS CONFERENCE

1. WE WELCOME AND WILL BE ABLE TO HOST SOUTH ASIA COMMERCIAL OFFICERS CONFERENCE IN COLOMBO APRIL 6-8, 1976.
2. CONFERENCE IS ENTIRELY FEASIBLE.
3. BEST FIRST CLASS HOTEL IS NEWLY OPENED LANKA OBEROI SHORT WALK FROM EMBASSY. WE HAVE CHECKED AND 25 SINGLE ROOMS WILL BE AVAILABLE APRIL 5-9 AT US \$14.50 DAILY, EUROPEAN PLAN, (\$18 DOUBLE). NO ADVANCE DEPOSIT. FREE CONFERENCE ROOM IS AVAILABLE BUT ON INSPECTION IS TOO SMALL AND OTHERWISE UNSATISFACTORY. OBEROI WILLING PROVIDE MORE THAN ADEQUATE PARTITIONED SECTION OF BALLROOM AT CONCESSIONAL RATE OF US \$29 PER 8-HOUR DAY AGAINST GUARANTEED OCCUPANCY OF 15 ROOMS DURING CONFERENCE PERIOD. NONNORMAL RATE FOR CONFERENCE USE OF THIS SPACE IS RS.500 PER HOUR. ONLY OTHER FIRST CLASS HOTEL IS CEYLON INTERCONTINENTAL WHICH IS NOT WILLING TO GIVE ANY REDUCTION IN CONFERENCE ROOM RATE.
4. TO SUPPORT ADVANCE OFFICER, EMBASSY CONTROL OFFICER WOULD BE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL OFFICER FSO-4 JAMES HAWLEY.
5. FULL-TIME SECRETARY FOR CONFERENCE WOULD BE AVAILABLE. MUST SECRETARY BE CLEARED AMERICAN? ON CAR AND DRIVER AVAILABLE FOR JOINT USE OF CONFERENCE CO-UNCLASSIFIED

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CHAIRMAN.

6. AMBASSADOR AND/OR EMBASSY OFFICERS WILL BE PLEASED TO HAVE APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATIONAL FUNCTIONS. AS CONFERENCE PLANNERS MAY KNOW, CEYLON HAS MANY TOURIST ATTRACTIONS. WE WILL BE ABLE TO ARRANGE VISITS AND LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT IN COORDINATION WITH CONFERENCE WORKING SCHEDULE. WE WILL MAKE SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS FOR REPRESENTATION FUNCTIONS AND POSSIBLE ENTERTAINMENT WHEN CONFERENCE CONFIRMED.

7. THERE ARE NO SPECIAL LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS EXCEPT ATTENDEES SHOULD KNOW COLOMBO AIRPORT IS ABOUT 20 MILES OR ONE HOUR FROM CITY. EMBASSY WILL MEET CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRMAN AND WILL ATTEMPT TO MEET OTHERS BUT SOME MAY HAVE TO MAKE OWN TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS.

8. WE HAVE INFORMALLY TOLD GSL OF CONFERENCE POSSIBILITY AND THEY SEE NO PROBLEM.

VAN HOLLEN

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